

enzer

April 9 1956

Dear Seymour:

A fuse finally blew and led to the recollection of some forgotten experiments that might interest you.

In March 1949, we were interested in finding phages that would be excluded by Lp^+ and could therefore be used for experiments on the timing of lysogeny, etc. We were working on the precedent of Burnet's older work on staph phages— and the system we were looking for is of course very close to the P22-P22V relations in *S. typhimurium*. We did not succeed in getting lambda mutants with the desired property, so we searched for new phages. We were also interested in the natural distribution of lambda.

Chicago sewage was filtered and plated on Lp^S . 337 plaques were picked and tested on Lp^+ vs. Lp^S . One showed a clear differential, = "p20". This was cultivated, and the difference in eop confirmed; however, p20 killed Lp^+ without forming plaques, and we therefore lost interest. It was noted, however, that *E. coli* B was p20^S; B/6 was ^r, and then that there was complete cross-resistance among mutants of K-12 selected on the two phages. It was concluded that p20 was a T6-related phage that could kill, but not lyse Lp^+ and we thought no more about it. Our ~~than~~ stock of T6 must have been r^+ , as it did not show this differential.

If it would interest you, we might be able to locate the phage stock of p20, though we are somewhat disordered owing to remodelling. Let us know if you would like us to search for it.

Sincerely,

P.S. Alan wrote me asking for some auxotrophic mutants. We could supply some, and would be happy to, but most are tied up in various complicated combinations of markers. Bernie Davis must have a much better library for this kind of stock, but I will be glad to scrounge for anything else.
P.S.

Joshua Lederberg